

**EXTENDED YEAR FOR SPECIAL EDUCATORS**

2008 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

This bill provides for stipends for special educators for additional days of work.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- directs the Legislature to annually appropriate money for stipends for special educators in the amount of \$200 per day for up to ten additional days of work;
- requires special educators to:
  - schedule the additional days of work before or after the school year; and
  - use the additional days of work to perform duties related to the IEP process.

**Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**53A-17a-154**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **53A-17a-154** is enacted to read:

**53A-17a-154. Stipends for special educators for additional days of work.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "IEP" means an individualized education program developed pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, as amended.

(b) "Special education teacher" means a teacher whose primary assignment is the instruction of students with disabilities who are eligible for special education services.

(c) "Special educator" means a person employed by a school district, charter school, or the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind who holds:

(i) a license issued under Title 53A, Chapter 6, Educator Licensing and Professional Practices Act; and

(ii) a position as a:

(A) special education teacher;

(B) speech-language pathologist;

(C) speech-language technician;

(D) school psychologist;

(E) physical therapist;

(F) occupational therapist; or

(G) audiologist.

(2) In recognition of the added duties and responsibilities assumed by special educators to comply with federal law regulating the education of students with disabilities and the need to attract and retain qualified special educators, the Legislature shall annually appropriate money for stipends to special educators for additional days of work.

(3) The State Board of Education shall distribute money appropriated under this section to school districts, charter schools, and the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind for stipends for special educators in the amount of \$200 per day for up to 10 additional working days.

(4) A special educator receiving a stipend shall:

(a) work an additional day beyond the number of days contracted with the special educator's school district or school for each \$200 daily stipend;

(b) schedule the additional days of work before or after the school year; and

(c) use the additional days of work to perform duties related to the IEP process,

including:

(a) administering student assessments;

(b) conducting IEP meetings;

(c) writing IEPs;

(d) conferring with parents; and

(e) maintaining records and preparing reports.

(5) A special educator may:

(a) elect to receive a stipend for one to 10 days of additional work; or

(b) elect to not receive a stipend.

64           (6) A person who does not hold a full-time position as a special educator is eligible for  
65    a partial stipend equal to the percentage of a full-time special educator position the person  
66    assumes.

